

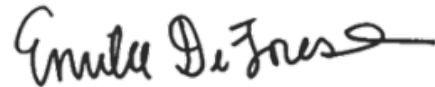
March 29, 2022

The Calhoun County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service/Texas Sea Grant Office and the Calhoun County 4-H Sportfishing Club would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust. We have been very fortunate to witness firsthand the positive impact that the educational equipment purchased with this grant has had on Calhoun County youth, as well as youth from other counties, some of which have no coastline. We plan on using this equipment for a long time. These funds will have a positive impact on an entire generation of people in Calhoun County. Please see a summary of equipment purchased and programs provided during the past year below.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RJ Shelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

RJ Shelly
*Calhoun County AgriLife Extension/Texas Sea Grant
Coastal and Marine Resources Agent*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilee DeForest". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Emilee DeForest
*Calhoun County AgriLife Extension
4-H Youth Development Agent*

Educational Equipment Purchased

- 20 kayaks with all required safety gear, paddles, anchors, and an aluminum trailer
- 25 fishing rods and reels
- Fishing tackle, live wells, aerators, bait buckets, dip nets, crab tongs
- Sampling equipment – seines, perch traps, crab nets, trot lines, crawfish rakes, Aquatic D Nets
- 25 digital microscopes
- 20 GoPro cameras with accessory kits
- 5 laptop computers including video editing software, mice, mousepad, headphones, USB drives and carrying cases
- Classroom Touch Tank
- Classroom fish model
- Red Cross CPR/First Aid/AED training supplies

Program Summary

4/20/21 – Fishing Rod and Kayak Anchor Rigging (10 people in attendance)

Calhoun County 4-H Sportfishing Club members met at Calhoun County Agriculture Building. They learned how to rig fishing rods and spool reels with line. Then they were all taught how to rig a kayak anchor. They each got the opportunity to rig several rods and anchors themselves after learning the proper knots.

6/2 – 6/4/21 – Basic Water Safety (99 people in attendance over 3 days)

YMCA Summer Camp Youth and Calhoun County 4-H Sportfishing Club Youth were fitted into life jackets, They jumped into water to check fit on life jacket. They were taught how to float to be seen by USCG Helicopter in case of a man overboard situation. They were also told what to do and how to float if they found themselves in cold water to prevent hypothermia. They practiced assisting swimmers in distress using USCG Type 4 PFD's to prevent becoming a victim of a double drowning. Then they got to get in a kayak and paddle around the pool. This taught them how to keep their weight low and centered in the kayak so it would not tip over.

6/2 and 6/4/21 – Paddle Craft Safety (67 people in attendance over 2 days)

YMCA Camp Youth and Calhoun County 4-H Sportfishing Club Youth were taught how to properly enter and exit kayaks in the Port Lavaca Pool. They were also taught and practiced how to use paddles and USCG Type 4 throwable cushions to assist someone that has fallen out of a kayak. They paddled a kayak in the pool and flipped it over so they could be taught how to flip it back over and reenter it in deep water.

6/7/21 – Intro. to GoPro Cameras (30 people in attendance)

YMCA 10-14 yr. old group was introduced GoPro Cameras. They set the cameras up, adjusted the settings, practiced putting accessories on for filming and took some practice pictures and videos.

6/8 and 6/9/21 – Kingfisher Beach Seining Program (91 people in attendance over 2 days)

YMCA Youth were exposed to hermit crabs, blue crabs, fish, and shrimp. They learned what an estuary was. They also learned why the water near Port O'Connor is saltier than the water near Port Lavaca. They were able to use seines to sample the fish and shellfish populations at King Fisher Beach. They learned what species lived there, got to touch them, and observe how they relate to other species of fish and shellfish in the area.

6/9/21 – Transferring Files from GoPro Cameras to USB Flash Drives (28 people in attendance) YMCA Youth took pictures and videos with the GoPro Cameras at the King Fisher Beach Program. In this session they learned how to hook the GoPro up to a computer so they could review the pictures and videos. Then they were taught how to install a USB Flash Drive and download the picture and video files onto the flash drive so they would be available for editing in the future.

6/15/21 – Texas Floating Classroom (90 people total in attendance)

YMCA Youth went aboard the Texas Floating Classroom vessel in Lavaca Bay. They sampled plankton with a plankton net and then observed it under a microscope and field scopes. They also pulled a shrimp trawl to sample fish and shellfish populations in Lavaca Bay. A few GoPro cameras were mounted on the vessel to capture some pictures and short video clips for the 10–14-year-old groups videos.

6/25/21 – GoPro Training #3 (19 people in attendance)

YMCA 10–14-year-old group learned how to put their photos and video clips from their field trips into Window’s Movie Maker 10 software. They learned how to download music files to include in the video and how to include titles. They used what they learned to start putting some of their files into video format.

6/29 and 6/30/21 – Coletto Creek Reservoir Trip (98 people total in attendance)

YMCA Youth learned about freshwater ecosystems. They seined and collected freshwater invertebrates using scientific sampling equipment. They also learned about erosion and delta formation using a stream trailer as well as factors that add to or decrease the amount of habitat along the Whooping Cranes migratory path from Canada to the Texas Coast. The 10-14 year old YMCA Group used the GoPro Cameras to capture some footage from these activities for their video.

7/13/21 – YMCA Camp - fishing and crabbing trip to Bayfront Peninsula Fishing Pier in Port Lavaca (33 people in attendance) YMCA Youth in the 6–7-year-old group used fishing rods, crab traps and crab dip nets to catch fish and crabs from the Bayfront Peninsula fishing pier in Port Lavaca. This let the campers see some species of fish that were too big to catch in a seine during one of their previous trips to the bay.

7/14 and 7/15/2021 – YMCA Camp - kayak tour of Boggy Bayou Nature Park in Port O’Connor (59 people in attendance) YMCA Campers took a guided kayak tour of Boggy Bayou with Texas Sea Grant and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agents. They got to pick up crab and perch traps to see what organisms were captured. They saw fish and wildlife including an alligator. They paddled through sea grass beds, alongside cordgrass shorelines, and over

oyster reefs. They also saw firsthand how the freeze of February 2021 killed the mangrove trees that inhabited these shorelines.

7/19/21 – District 11 4-H Jr. Leadership Lab at Rockport Beach Park (120 4-H Youth from 18 Counties in District 11 in attendance) District 11 4-H Members in attendance got a chance to kayak in Little Bay in Rockport during their Jr. Leadership Lab. This allowed them to get an up-close look at a shoreline that was being used as a nesting area by shorebirds.

7/20/21 – Coastal Bend 4-H Sportfishing Day (72 people in attendance, 4-H Youth from Calhoun, Matagorda, Aransas, San Patricio and Nueces Counties) 4-H Youth that participated in the very first Coastal Bend 4-H Sportfishing Day got to fish print, fish, kayak, and seine to learn about different organisms that live in Little Bay. They also learned about boating safety from TPWD Game Wardens and Sun Safety from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Healthy South Texas Youth Ambassadors.

7/26/21 – Healthy South Texas Youth Ambassadors Kayak and Fishing Trip on Copano Bay (21 4-H Youth and 5 Adults in attendance) 4-H Youth in attendance got to exercise using kayaks on Copano Bay. This also allowed them to get an up-close look at some of the fish and wildlife in the area. They also got to use rods and reels to catch some fish.

8/6/21 – YMCA Camp - Video Editing (20 youth in attendance)

YMCA 10–14-Year-old Group used Go-Pro and Kayak equipment to make video's which were edited into short movie clips. There were 20 YMCA Campers present at this event.

9/20/21 – Calhoun County 4-H Night (25 people in attendance)

Programs available to Calhoun County 4-H members were highlighted. Approximately 25 people were in attendance.

9/25/21 – Calhoun County 4-H Sportfishing Club Kayak Trip to Boggy Bayou (10 youth in attendance) 4-H Sportfishing Club members and some of their parents went kayaking in Boggy Bayou to learn about the marine environment while experiencing it up close.

10/19/21 – Calhoun County 4-H Sportfishing Club Meeting (6 youth in attendance)

Club members and some of their siblings and parents used the digital microscopes to take a closer look at plants and insects.

11/2 and 11/3/21 – Calhoun County ISD 4th Grade Marine Program at Lighthouse Beach

All 4th grade students in CCISD went to Lighthouse Beach on Lavaca Bay. They used seines and crab traps to get an up-close look at marine life in the bay. They also learned about marine pollution, shells and how sand gets to the beach.

11/18/21 – Calhoun County YMCA Club Go-Pro Program (15 youth in attendance)

Youth at the YMCA After School Program learned how to use Go-Pro Cameras. They shot some indoor footage to get ready for their video editing program.

11/9, 11/23, and 12/7/21 – 4-H Videography Project Programs

4-H youth used the Go-Pro Camera's to shoot outdoor videos which they then learned how to edit into short movies. Six 4-H Youth participate in this program.

12/13-12/16/21 – CCISD Wetlands Field Days for 8th grade

All CCISD 8th grade students used sampling nets and crawfish traps to sample organisms at the CCISD Formosa Tejano Wetlands. They observed the smaller organisms under the digital microscopes. The students learned about the importance of wetlands and the ecological relationships between the different species that use wetland habitats.

12/17/21 – Calhoun County 4-H Sportfishing Club Fishing Trip (10 people in attendance)

4-H Sportfishing Club members and their parents and siblings used Calhoun County 4-H Sportfishing Club equipment to fish off the TPWD Docks in Port O'Connor. They caught Redfish, Sheepshead, Flounder, Pinfish and a Hardhead Catfish.

1/19/21 – CPR/First Aid/AED Certification Training for Calhoun County Commercial Fisherman and Fishing Guides

Calhoun County Fishing Guide received CPR/First Aid/AED Certification that is needed to maintain his USCG License. He was also able to practice CPR while aboard his vessel so he will be better prepared for any cardiac emergencies that may occur while at sea.

3/7–3/9/21- CCISD Wetlands Field Days for 5th grade

All CCISD 5th grade students used sampling nets and crawfish traps to sample organisms at the CCISD Formosa Tejano Wetlands. The students learned about the importance of wetlands and the ecological relationships between the different species that use wetland habitats.

3/22-3/25/21 - CCISD Wetlands Field Days for 7th grade

All CCISD 7th grade students used sampling nets and crawfish traps to sample organisms at the CCISD Formosa Tejano Wetlands. They observed the smaller organisms under the digital microscopes. The students learned about the importance of wetlands and the ecological relationships between the different species that use wetland habitats

Media Summary

- 4-H Offers Water Safety – Port Lavaca Wave (Front Page) - June 16, 2021
- Life’s Out There – Kids explore coastal ecosystems on YMCA kayak trip – Victoria Advocate (Front Page) – July 15, 2021
- Community Crossroads TV Segment on 4-H Videography Program – August 23, 2021
- Coastal Bend 4-H Sportfishing Day Presentation - Texas A&M AgriLife, Southeast Region Faculty Meeting, College Station, TX – September 2, 2021

YouTube Links to videos created by youth during this program

<https://youtu.be/l1Kcde3ImWY>

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFI2uqYCLsyZWL56mBiaHNw4_uZ65UY17